

one of the fastest growing crimes in the country.

#### PRESIDENT CLINTON PUTS POLITICS OVER PEOPLE ON FLOOD RELIEF LEGISLATION

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton sent a callous message to the flood-ravaged American families in the Midwest. Only minutes after receiving the disaster relief bill from Capitol Hill, the President who likes to say that he feels our pain told thousands of flood victims that he was going to veto the bill that would help them rebuild their homes and get on with their lives.

Why did President Clinton veto the legislation? Because the bill contained a provision that would stop him from forcing another Government shutdown. Let me repeat that. The President is withholding aid to thousands of flood victims so that he can reserve the right to once again put thousands and thousands of government employees out of work and bring the work of the Federal Government to a halt.

Despite the fact that the President is a master at spin, Mr. Speaker, I do not think he is going to be able to spin this one much. The American people are going to see through this. It is politics at its worst. Let us get the disaster relief to the people who truly need it.

#### THE ECONOMY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, if this economy is so great, why are American workers losing their jobs? If this economy is so great, why are American workers going bankrupt in record numbers? If that is not enough to massage your Dow Jones, check this out: If this economy is so great, why do many families need three jobs just to pay their bills?

Let us tell it like it is: When you hold this economy to your nose, this economy does not smell so rosy. If there is any consolation to the American workers, I never heard of anyone in America committing suicide by jumping out of a basement window.

I yield back all the propaganda on this great economy.

#### UNDER THE HEADING: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, since I spoke about Haiti at morning business early today, I have seen still more evidence to suggest that there is a de facto

strong man regime being run in Haiti by former President Aristide, one that functions contrary to and does damage to the embryonic democratic process the United States is supporting there with so many United States tax dollars and so much of our credibility.

International observers and Haitian political parties alike say that the April 6 elections were fraudulent. They were rigged in favor of Aristide, a man who today is sabotaging the economic reform process that is so desperately needed in Haiti, the poorest nation in this hemisphere. Worse still is the fact that all the candidates who are not of Aristide's Famille Lavalas Party are boycotting this Sunday's elections because they are based on a flawed process, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask, where are those colleagues today, those champions of Aristide who rallied at the White House to support him when he was President-in-exile? Will they be around to support democracy in Haiti, which is what this is about, rather than restoring a strong man?

#### IN FAVOR OF A CLEAN SPENDING BILL

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans must stop playing politics with the lives of the flood victims of North Dakota and Minnesota. Pass a bill that is disaster relief, plain and simple. Amendments that have nothing to do with disaster relief have no place in a bill designed to bring relief to people in dire need.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a district of hard-working people who live nearly 2,000 miles from the Dakotas, people who now must deal with the so-called immigrant and welfare reforms. My constituents are filled with compassion for those struggling to fulfill the American dream. Their hearts and minds go out to those in need in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

My constituents are outraged that the Republican Party would play politics with people so desperately in need. Shame on them. Pass a clean bill and leave the politics at home.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASEBALL AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS FOR WINNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Mr. MCCRERY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, across our Nation this past weekend millions of Americans took part in the weekly ritual of opening their Sunday morning newspaper. For many folks, they first turn to the sports page to get scores or reports on their favorite teams.

But this past Sunday Louisianans did not need to check the papers. In their

homes Saturday they had gathered with purple- and gold-clad friends to watch the LSU Tigers win the College World Series for the second consecutive year and for the fourth time in the 1990's. Along the way, LSU rewrote the record books, hitting more home runs than any other college team in history.

Meanwhile the LSU women's track and field team accomplished what many said could not be done, clinching an 11th consecutive national championship. The championship for the Lady Tigers continued the longest active streak of national championships by any men's or women's program in Division I sports.

If you opened the Sunday paper here in our Nation's Capital this last weekend, there was an entire page with stories about the two championships for LSU. Hard work by athletes and coaches on both LSU teams has produced collegiate sports dynasties and has instilled pride in the hearts of Tiger alumni across America. I join the citizens of Louisiana in saying congratulations and thank you to Coach Skip Bertman and his LSU men's baseball team and to Coach Pat Henry and the women's track and field team. Keep going, Tigers.

#### H.R. 1822, THE STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANKS FOR SCHOOLS ACT OF 1997

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced House Resolution 1822, the State Infrastructure Banks for Schools Act, along with 31 Members from both parties. This is a cost-effective approach to help schools prepare our kids for the 21st century workplace.

We are all familiar with the estimated \$112 billion tax dollar price tag to improve school infrastructure. But we now know that a direct correlation exists between the condition of school facilities and the students' achievement. That is right, our kids' grades are affected by the condition of their schools. It is difficult to learn when the roof is leaking or blackouts occur if too many computers are turned on.

H.R. 1822 addresses these problems by funding State Infrastructure Banks, or SIBs, for school construction. These banks provide maximum flexibility in financing and minimal restrictions regarding project approval. As loans are repaid, banks could provide assistance to projects in other schools. Although this is an innovative approach, similar programs have been used for Clean Water Act infrastructure, making improvements more affordable and widely available.

Mr. Speaker, we need to educate our kids in a stable and supportive environment. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1822.